

David Charles'

Boston Vintage Sports Flashback

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NOVEMBER 21, 1965

PARENT BLOCKS 40 HABS' SHOTS, BRUINS WIN, 3-2

By Tom Fitzgerald, The Boston Globe

Another brilliant goaltending display by young Bernie Parent and a hustling over-all team effort boosted the Bruins into a 3-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens in the Garden Sunday night.

The capacity gathering of 13,909, fourth in seven home games, gave a tremendous roar at the conclusion of this swiftly paced contest in which the Bruins picked up the tempo after some shaky moments early in the second period.

The most vital contribution was made by Johnny Bucyk in the first minute of the final period when he found the mark with a well-tagged shot down the middle from 18 feet after a pass from the corner by Eddie Westfall.

The other Bruins' goals were made by Tom Williams, an opportune spot player in this occasion, who deflected blue line drives by Ted Green, playing one of his finest games in two seasons as a real sparkplug for his club.

The one really bad spot for the Bruins came this time in a span of 93 seconds in the earlier part of the second period when the Canadiens got both of their scores.

Both of these resulted after interceptions of attempted Boston clearing passes by Ralph Backstrom and J.C. Tremblay. On the first Claude Larose rapped in a rebound by Backstrom and on the other Gilles Tremblay smashed in a bounce back of a Jean Beliveau try.

These were very tough ones on parent, but during the rest of the evening, the 20-year-old goalie was not only impregnable but very close to sensational.

Bernie's most conspicuous victim was Henri Richard, who was robbed at least five times.

The most spectacular of these came in the second period, not too long after Williams had gained a tie at 2-2 for the Bruins. Parent stopped a shot by Claude Provost and then flung himself across in front to divert Richard's seemingly easy try at the rebound with his shoulder.

Early in the third, Parent blocked two quick attempts by Larose and had three very soon against Richard.

Bernie had 42 shots poured at him and if there were any lingering doubts about the youth's readiness for full-time play in the big league they should be dispelled now.

The Bruins had 27 shots against Charles Hodge and their successful individual marksmen had impressive percentages.

Bucyk's game-winner was his only shot of the contest. Williams was two for two. Tom made both of his while the teams had men in the penalty box, and both were on alert deflections of Green smashes.

DECEMBER 11, 1986

BRUINS HOME IN ON CANUCKS, 4-2

By Francis Rosa, The Boston Globe

Everyman's backup goalie, Doug Keans, continued to play No. 1 hockey, running his undefeated string to nine games (7-0-2) last night as the Bruins extended their winning streak to five.

They defeated the Vancouver Canucks, 4-2, at the Garden to stay within two points of first place in the Adams Division and regain second, a point ahead of idle Hartford.

This game was threatened by a day-long power failure that wasn't corrected until an hour before game time. Better for the Canucks if the lights had never come on, for after a sound first period (and a 1-0 lead), they watched the Bruins throw the switch on them in a three-goal second period.

The victory not only wrapped up a perfect five-game homestand but put the Bruins in that consistent frame of mind coach Terry O'Reilly seeks as they move into a stretch of three division games in a row: Saturday in Montreal, Sunday in Quebec and next Thursday at the Garden against Hartford.

It took the Bruins about 20 minutes to warm up to their self-appointed task of running their winning streak to five. Once they got going, however, they hit the Vancouver Canucks with a three-goal second period. There were other personal incentives in this game, with two former Canucks, Cam Neely and Thomas Gradin, and a former Bruin, Barry Pederson, playing against their teammates. All three played as though they had something to prove.

The Bruins' offensive spark in the second period came from their point men, Ray Bourque and Reed Larson, and the niftiest goal of the season was scored by Tom McCarthy.

The Canucks came out of the first period with a 1-0 lead on a goal by defenseman Doug Lidster. He scored with only 14 seconds left, and somehow it didn't loom as ominous as a goal that late in a period usually does. The Bruins tied it at 19 seconds of the second period. That was an ominous goal.

Lidster's goal was a 50-footer from the left point up high to Doug Keans' right. It handcuffed the Boston goalie, who had lost his stick a few seconds earlier making a save on Pederson.

Pederson had held the puck 8 feet in front of Keans as Keans went down. Pederson couldn't get the shot up high enough. The rebound came out to Petri Skriko in the slot, but he couldn't get his shot through the traffic in front of Keans. The puck went into the left corner, and Stan Smyl slid it back to Lidster at the point.

Bourque tied it with his ninth goal of the season. He picked off a loose puck at the right point and slapped a 50-footer, low to goalie Richard Brodeur's left. Three minutes later, the Bruins took the lead on a Larson power-play goal.

The puck moved from Bourque at the left point to Larson in the middle at the blue line. He passed it to Ken Linseman in the right circle, and the Boston center laid it back to Larson. Larson cocked his stick and hit the puck in full motion. It zipped past Brodeur's right.

The goal that should make everyone's film highlights was scored by McCarthy in combination with Neely. Neely, in the high slot, got the puck behind defenseman Garth Butcher as McCarthy cut for the front of the net from the right. McCarthy made a circle, started to fall down and swept a backhand past Brodeur's left.

The Bruins had a 14-4 bulge in shots in the second period, which was just about that one-sided.

Linseman increased the Boston lead to 4-1 at 1:27 of the third period on a play initiated by Keith Crowder and continued by Charlie Simmer. Crowder went down the right side, crashing through Michel Petit on the right boards, and surviving a check by Jim Sandlak in the corner, to put the puck behind the goal for Simmer. He tried for one of his vintage goals, curling the puck around at the right post. It caromed off a defender and then off Linseman's stick and into the net. The Canucks added a power-play goal by Steve Tambellini late in the period.

There was a scuffle later when Dave Richter speared Steve Kasper and then Rich Sutter hit the Boston player across the head from behind.

But, the Bruins' fifth straight home victory was all present and accounted for.

FEBRUARY 26, 1978

CELTICS HOLD ON, NIP NETS, 94-92

By John Powers, The Boston Globe

PISCATAWAY, NJ - This is how it is going to be from now until April 9: daffy, turbulent swirl of injuries, foul trouble, blown leads, zone defenses, fistfights, imaginative officiating and last-second hysterics. This was just the sneak preview. . .and something of all of the above was available here yesterday.

And after the Celtics had squandered advantages like 20-6, 41-20 and 66-46, and Cedrick Maxwell and Jan Van Breda Kolff had been tossed out for fighting, and Kermit Washington's left foot temporarily gone numb, John Havlicek - yes - stole the ball and Boston escaped with a 94-92 victory over the New Jersey Nets before a standing-room-only crowd of 9050 at the Rutgers Athletic Center.

It was the Celtics' second straight triumph, and their fifth of nine on this 11-game road trip, and by 4 p.m. it had Tom Sanders muttering to himself on the sidelines.

The zone defense and the officiating of Ed Middleton and

Hugh Evans were the main topics of discussion. . .and the Celtics swore that was what made a fat third-quarter lead (20 points with 4:31 to go) shrivel to a single point in the game's final seconds.

It was the same web of high-school zonery, traps and triple-teaming that had baffled Boston here in October, and Sanders was distressed that it could still work now.

"Obviously, we don't handle pressure defenses well," he said afterwards. "Again, we had troubles with it. Needless to say, John Williamson's hot shooting (13 of 27 for 31 points) didn't help, either. And late in the game, they were using our men for picks. . .no excuse for that to happen, no matter how tired we are. But, I might add, we DID win the game."

Not that it wasn't a bit hairy down the stretch. Williamson, running mate Kevin Porter (26 and 12 assists) and rookie Bernard King (25 and 10 rebounds), who scored all but 10 of the Nets' 92 points, boiled Boston's 86-74 lead down to nothing in eight minutes.

And when Dave Bing (18) threw a pass out of bounds, New Jersey had the ball and a chance at the game with 26 seconds left, trailing 93-92. the options, if you care to glance at the box score, were obvious.

"We wanted the best dhot we could find," said Nets coach Kevin Loughery, "so that meant first to Super John on the off side, then swinging it back to Bernard."

But taut coverage on Porter by Bing forced a pass to 6-11 center George Johnson out high, and since time was ticking down, he took the shot. The rebound came to King. . .and, suddenly, here was Havlicek, sprinting down the sideline with the ball, then pivoting and dribbling away the last six seconds near midcourt, and sinking a free throw after King fouled him at the buzzer.

A little tacky for an ending, perhaps, since neither the Nets nor Piscataway-on-Raritan were invented the last time Havlicek did it in 1965.

But then, the Celtics were arguing that it never should have come to that, and pointed the finger at Middleton and Evans for ignoring obvious fouls off the Nets' pressure coverage.

"You would assume we'd be going to the line with them behind and coming on with the pressure," Sanders murmured. "But it didn't appear that way."

As it was, all but eight of Boston's 26 free throws came in the first half, and when the fourth quarter rolled around, it was Bing, Dave Cowens (18 and 13 rebounds) and Sidney Wicks (15 and 13) who had 13 fouls among them.

By then Maxwell was long gone, having been ejected for a brief scuffle just before halftime. Jo Jo White, still bothered by The Spurs, wasn't here to begin with. And there was a 5:25 flight to catch. Just your normal afternoon amid the playoff race.

NOVEMBER 28, 1982

BIRD, CELTICS BATTER BUCKS

By Dan Shaughnessy, The Boston Globe

It was impressive.

The Celtics closed out a holiday weekend last night with their eighth straight victory - a mighty, 124-109 thrashing of the venerable Milwaukee Bucks.

Robert Parish had 19 points and 16 rebounds, Tiny Archibald added 15 points and 8 assists, and Danny Ainge contributed 13 points, hitting 6 of 9 from the floor; but like so many others, the story of this game was Larry Bird.

In an age of few absolutes, it would seem safe to say that Boston can claim several "bests." We have the best seafood, the best educational environment. . .and the best basketball player. Like Bobby Orr, who played under the same rotting roof a decade ago, Bird is routinely the top performer in every game he plays. By setting a unique standard of excellence, he has been taken for granted at times, and it is only when his game is elevated to its highest level that he is duly credited.

Last night was one of those nights. In 39 minutes and 18 seconds, Bird scored 37 points and snatched 9 rebounds. Converting shots with either hand, from any angle and every square of the parquet, Bird threw down 15 of 18 from the floor, and 7 of 8 from the line. When Bill Fitch finally pulled him from the floor early in the fourth quarter, Boston led, 106-85, and the Celtics' 86th consecutive home sellout saluted.

"It was impressive," said Fitch, a man not easily impressed. "If somebody else did it, you'd be reading about it from coast to coast tomorrow. With him, it's just another day in the life of Larry Bird."

Bird, consummate teammate that he is, said, "Obviously the shots were going in but I don't think that was the key to the game. The key to the game was our defense."

Playing without Dave Cowens (muscle tear in his knee) and Alton Lister (ill), it was obvious Milwaukee was hurting underneath, and the Celtics outrebounded the Bucks, 56-35. "I knew there was a mismatch on the boards," said Buck coach Don Nelson. "I was hoping that our outside game would carry us, but I guess it was not good enough. They handled us all ways tonight. They had us on the inside and the outside, they ran the break very well."

Milwaukee's game plan worked dairly well for a while. Sidney moncrief and Junior Bridgeman lit up the sky in the first half. The unconscious duo hit 17 of 22, most from 18-20 feet. But when that kind of shooting wasn't enough to give the Bucks a halftime lead, you knew Milwaukee was in trouble.

Bird kept it from getting out of hand early. The Celtics led by five after one period, and there were eight tie and six lead changes in the second. While Messrs. Bridgeman (27 points) and moncrief (21) were burying everything from the perimeter, Bird swooped and scooped his way to 15 points, the Celtics scored 39 in the period and led, 67-58, at halftime.

Boston outscored the bucks, 30-23, in the third to take a 97-81 lead. During one stretch, the Celtics reeled off 12 in a row as bird, Cedrick Maxwell and Parish ran what remained of Milwaukee's frontcourt out of the building. Thirty-four-year-old Bob Lanier (5 points and 3 rebounds in 24 minutes), showed telltail signs of two games in two nights. He developed a windburn from the "whoosh" of Parish beating him up and down the floor. Parish scored 12 in the third period. Marques Johnson (11) points, was also among the missing at times.

"At halftime we said that the third quarter should be ours," said Fitch, "because they were missing people and guys like Parish and Maxwell were rested. In the third quarter, we dominated the offensive board." It was spectacular rebounding, especially by Parish and Maxwell."

Boston's lead peaked with 3:24 left in the game when M.L. Carr hit a 20-footer to make it 115-93. Charles Criss livened things up, hitting three 3-pointers in the closing minutes, and Darren Tillis canned a turnaround in another of his cameo appearances.

JULY 2, 1968

HARRELSON'S DOUBLE GIVES LYLE 4-3 WIN

By Will McDonough, The Boston Globe

Ken Harrelson says revenge has nothing to do with it.

"I'm just lucky against them - that's all. In fact, I don't even like to hit against them because I think they've got the best stuff in the league."

Nonetheless, Harrelson continues to punish the Oakland Athletics, the team that cast him astray in the midst of last season.

Tuesday night, with 21,492 sitting in at Fenway Park on a beautiful night for baseball, Harrelson socked it to the Athletics once again with a game winning double in the eighth of a thrilling 4 to 3 victory.

The Sox trailed all the way in this one until with one out in the eighth, Harrelson lifted a high drive to left field that just nicked the wall on the way down.

While left fielder Jim Gosger scrambled after the carom, Jose Tartabull and Carl Yastrzemski sped home with two runs.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw Yaz running across the plate," said Harrelson. He's the only man in baseball who would have scored on the play. No one else knows the wall well enough to take the gamble."

If Gosger had caught the ball, Yastrzemski would have been doubled off first easily.

"I could tell by the way he was bracing himself against the wall that he was getting ready to jump for the ball," said Yastrzemski. "So I decided to gamble that he wouldn't make the catch. I knw I'd make it home if he didn't."

Another dramatic moment came in the ninth inning, when relief pitcher Sparky Lyle struck out the side.

Lyle hasn't been going too good lately. In his last two efforts he had given up damaging three-run homers.

This time though, he made all the big pitches.

Lyle came into the game in the seventh with two A's on and none out and pitched out of the jam. In the ninth, after two were out, Bert Campaneris singled and Reggie Jackson walked, bringing Rick Monday, one of the top hitters in the league, to the plate.

Lyle got tough and struck out Monday to end the game.

The Sox, at one point, trailed 3-0. Going into the eighth, they were behind 3-2.

Here, Mike Andrews singled off relief pitcher Ed Sprague. Dalton Jones, who already had three hits, forced Andrews.

Now Oakland brought on lefty Paul Linblad to pitch to Yaz, who walked four pitches.

Harrelson was coming up so Oakland called for righthanded reliever Jack Aker.

With Tartabull, running for Jones at second, and Yaz, at first, Harrelson hit a towering shot to left.

"When I hit it I thought it was a homer, then on the way down I was just hoping it would make the wall."

"Good thing it did," said Tartabull later. "If it didn't Yaz would have run right over me."

Gary Bell and Lew Krausse were the starting pitchers but neither figured in the final decision.

The A's jumped into a 1-0 lead in the second with an unearned run. John Donaldson started the inning with a single, reached second on Andrews' error, took third on a grounder, and scored on Joe Rudi's sacrifice fly to deep right.

Bell ran into more trouble in the fourth as Oakland touched him up for two more runs and a 3-0 lead.

These came on a walk to Donaldson, Danny Cater's double, a wild pitch, a walk and a double play.

The Sox picked up a run in the fourth. Jones opened with his second single off Krausse. Yastrzemski walked, Jones went to third on harrelson's deep fly to right, and scored on Reggie Smith's infield roller.

In the Boston sixth, Jones opened with his third hit, this one a double, and Krausse was lifted from the gam. Sprague, sidearming righthander, took oer for Krause with Yastrzemski coming up. Yaz hit a long drive to center, on which Jones moved to third.

Harrelson knocked in the run with a ground single into left field.

Bell was knocked from the game in the seventh as Campaneris singled and Jackson walked. Lyle was called on to stop the threat and he did it well. Lyle struck out Monday and got Sal Bando to hit into an inning ending double play.

So it went into the eighth with the A's protecting a 3 to 2 lead. The Hawk took care of the rest.

MAY 26, 1978

EVANS', RICE'S HRs BACK LEE, 6-3

By Larry Whiteside, The Boston Globe

It's easy to get confused watching Bill Lee. When he doesn't have good stuff, he has the ability to bore hitters to death with an assortment of pitching speeds and location.

Even when he does have good stuff, it still looks as if he's throwing up that same old slop, including the Tony Perez slow curve ball that a lot of people still wish he would tuck in his hip pocket and forget about.

Instead, they saw the old Bill Lee, the good guy who is now the Sox' top winner (7-1) and was the author of a 6-3 victory last night before 33,431 at Fenway Park.

"You've got it backwards," said Lee to the uniformed. "When I'm throwing that slow curve, it means I have a good fast ball. Check the records - the last few games. I've been having problems with my elbow and haven't been throwing hard.

"But each game has its own dance card. You've got to mix it up. I had a good fastball for three innings, then I threw slop for three, then I came back with a good fastball."

Coming off their 9-5 road trip, the Red Sox figured to be in a better hitting mood before the home crowd. And despite a thick fog and heavy air, they managed to rap out 11 hits off Milt Wilcox (3-2), who had beaten them in Detroit Sunday. Dwight Evans led the way with a pair of solo home runs, his seventh and eighth, marking only the second time in his career, he's accomplished that feat. Jim Rice hit a two-run shot in the first inning and Rick Burleson collected three hits, including the game-winning single with the bases loaded in the sixth.

The victory enabled Boston to retain their one-game lead in

the East over the Yankees and dropped the Tigers back three laps. Detroit has lost three straight games to left-Handers.

But nothing on offense did could overshadow the work of Lee, who rises and falls like the Roman Empire. One game he is supreme. The next he's very ordinary. But as long as he's winning, nobody is going to complain. He needed only 100 pitches to dispatch the Tigers, and among the 15 ground balls he produced, three were turned into double plays.

"I've always thrown junk up there," Lee. "It's just that when you're trying to make a rotation and you get hit, people wonder why you don't get rid of it. Now that I'm in the rotation and winning, people say, 'My, that's a nice pitch.'"

Bill Lee is rapidly becoming Spaceman Bill Lee again. And that guy won 17 games three seasons in a row.

"When Bill Lee has his good stuff," says Zimmer, "he gets ground balls. He had three double plays tonight. You know if he's right, we're going to get 2-4 double plays. He's pitching well."

The Sox gave their fans something to cheer about early in this contest. Rice, the league leader, used a four-wood, or so it seems, and sliced a two-run homer just inside the right field foul pole in the first. "I just hit the ball where it's pitched," said rice. "I wasn't trying for a homer."

Maybe he wasn't, but with Jerry Remy on base, he sent Boston off to a 2-0 lead. It became a 2-1 game on Rusty Staub's home run in the fourth. Boston went ahead, 3-1, on Evans' first homer in the fifth. But a two-run, two-out shot by Jason Thompson in the top of the sixth tied the game. It followed a double by Staub.

Burleson helped Lee make up for that one. Boston loaded the bases on a bloop double by Jack Brohamer, a walk to Evans and an infield single by Fred Kendall, who continues to play first base as if he were in the Golden Glove race. Burleson's soft fly-ball single dropped in front of left fielder Steve Kemp for the game winner.

"We got lucky," said Zimmer. "Not one of those hits in that inning was exactly stung."

And evans put the frosting on the cake with his second home run. "I can hit," he said, as if anyone doubted it. "But go talk to Bill Lee. He's the star. He's a good pitcher when he's got good stuff. He's good even when he hasn't! He's your hero."

'Nuff said.

NOVEMBER 5, 1933

REDSKINS TRIUMPH OVER CHICAGO BEARS

Runs by Battles and Edwards Feature
Boston's Victory, 10 To 0, Before 23,000

By Ernest Dalton, The Boston Globe

The Chicago Bears, undefeated and untied in six National Football League games, were rent asunder by the onrush of a rejuvenated Boston Redskin team and beaten, 10 to 0, at Fenway Park yesterday afternoon before nearly 23,000 fans.

Champions of 1932, and hailed as the 1933 team of destiny, the Bears just didn't click yesterday.

It may have been overconfidence, as the Bears won an

earlier clash, 7 to 0, and again, it may have been the much improved all-round play of the Redskins.

"Ye Olde" Red Grange was on hand, but the wearer of the magic No. 77 didn't get started, though he did toss some mean passes, Bronko Nagurski, the pile driver, was stopped, and the midget, Keith Molesworth, was hemmed in. John Sisk, who trampled on the Boston outfit last fall, was halted before he could get started.

Battles, Edwards Thrill

The Bears were just another team to the Redskins yesterday.

Cliff Battles was in old time form, contributing a startling 31-yard runback of a punt to start Boston off for its first touchdown, and later, in the second period, intercepting a Chicago pass and running it back 44 yards, two swell bits of broken field running.

The longest run of the day, and the most exciting, however, was turned in by a linesman, Glenn Edwards. Intercepting a Chicago pass in the third stanza, Edwards tore off 52 yards, a run that led up to the field goal that put the game on ice.

Boston needed a break to get under way, but given the break, finally made good on it, scoring one big touchdown. The game opened with the teams feeling each other out with an exchange of punts, and Chicago was on the Boston 45-yard line. Keith Molesworth fumbled and Red Collins recovered for Boston.

Staging an offensive, Musick and Battles got down to the Chicago 24, first down, but stalled and essayed a field goal. Musick's try went wide for a touchback. Starting from the 20, Chicago made a first down, was held, and punted to Gyp Battles.

Musick Goes Across

Receiving on his 30, Battles headed down the field, swerving right and left, and wasn't stopped until he reached the Chicago 39. This time the Bostons got under way, and didn't stop until Musick went over the line. A Chicago offside at the four-yard line helping considerably.

The other Boston score came in the third period, when Edwards intercepted a Chicago pass at the Boston 20 and traced his way to the Chicago 29-yard line. Three rushed netted only six yards, so Battles, with Apsit holding, booted a field goal.

Hardly had the crowd settled down after the Boston score, when, receiving the kickoff, the Bears moved right down to the Boston 24-yard line, a ground attack giving way to a backward-forward pass play, Molesworth to Grange to Sisk, which gained 30 odd yards to the Boston 24. There, a lateral lost three, and Grange, on a pass play, was tossed for a seven-yard loss, and Chicago kicked.

Bears' Threats Fail

In the second period, after an extended kicking duel, Jules Carlson intercepted a pass at the Chicago 30, and from there, mostly on the ground, the Bears waded to the Boston five-yard line, where a lateral and forward-pass play was tried. Carl Brumbaugh to Corbett to Bill Karr, with the latter dropping the ball as he fell to his knees in the end zone.

NOVEMBER 22, 1987

PATRIOTS PUT IT TOGETHER, 24-0

Colty's Come Apart

By Mark Blaudschun, The Boston Globe

FOXBOROUGH - Give this one to 39-year-old Julius Adams and his speech about togetherness and effort at Saturday night's group encounter session.

Give it to strong safety Jim Bowman, who shook off a first-half concussion after having been jokingly told he was Mike Haynes and then played like the old Mike Haynes in the second half with two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Give it to defensive end Garin Veris, who spent Saturday night in the hospital after having a bad reaction to a cortisone shot on his injured shoulder.

Give it to Andre Tippett, who had three sacks, and now leads the AFC with 11.

Give it to the defense, which finally tossed a shutout, coming up with five turnovers.

And give it, finally, to the New England Patriots, who for the first time in 1987 looked like a team that was expected to bulldoze its way through the AFC East with talent, toughness and tenacity, all of which were on display yesterday afternoon at Sullivan Stadium as they battered the Indianapolis Colts, 24-0.

It all finally came together for the Patriots on a bone-chilling afternoon that saw them move into a five-way tie for first place in the AFC East with a 5-5 record.

"It was close to a last-gasp effort against the team playing the best team in the division," said guard Ron Wooten, part of an offensive line that helped the Patriots pick up 139 yards rushing, most of it in the first half when they bulled their way to a 10-0 lead.

Most of that effort came from the defense, which had been AWOL for most of the season, but turned in its first shutout since blanking Pittsburgh, 34-0, last October.

Many patriots thought some of that effort had been missing this year, so on Saturday night at the team's hotel in Milford, several of the defensive players, including Adams (who came out of retirement during the strike), and defensive end Kenneth Sims, spoke at a team meeting.

"We are a team and we must play as a team," said Sims. "We must take it upon ourselves to reach out and make the plays come our way."

The Patriots had help, mostly from Colt quarterback Gary Hogeboom, who threw three interceptions while being sacked three times by a raging bull named Andre Tippett.

"Nothing was really different than last time," said Colt center Ray Donaldson, referring to Indianapolis' 30-16 victory over the Patriots four weeks ago. "We kept waiting for something to happen. But it never did."

Nothing good, at least.

The Patriots generated all of their offense in the second quarter when quarterback Tom Ramsey (12 for 26, 183 yards), making his first NFL start, threw an 8-yard scoring pass to Irving Fryar and Tony Franklin kicked a 34-yard field goal.

The second half belonged strictly to the defense, particularly Bowman, who was filling in for injured starter Roland James.

Bowman had started the game but was knocked out with a mild concussion. When he was sitting on the sidelines, attempting to clear his head, running back Robert Weathers, who is spending this season on the injured reserve list, came over and told Bowman he was former Patriot All-Pro defensive back Mike Haynes.

Bowman played like an All-Pro in the second half, picking off two Hogeboom passes and recovering a fumble by Eric Dickerson (27 carries, 117 yards).

But Bowman was merely one star in a suddenly sparkling galaxy. Long forgotten and twice-cut tight end Willie Scott widened the lead to 17-0 when he sliced through some paper-mache Colt blocking and smothered Rohn Stark's punt and ran it in for a 3-yard touchdown.

If there were any doubts after that, cornerback Ronnie Lippett ended them when he cut in front of Colt receiver Matt Bouza to intercept Hogeboom's pass and return it 45 yards for a touchdown and a 24-0 Patriot lead.

The victory renewed the Patriots' faith in themselves after a rough week of self-doubts that were mounting each day.

"We did some soul searching before this game," said wide receiver Cedric Jones, one of the more outspoken self-critics after last week's 23-17 overtime loss to the Dallas Cowboys. "This is something we can do every time. It does a lot for your confidence. The last couple of weeks we had played without emotion. That was different this week," And now the attitude on the Patriots is different.

"This just puts us back in position (to win)," said Wooten. "But that's all it is. We've still got our work cut out for us."

But now, instead of self-doubt, there is self-confidence. "We had gotten to the point where we were thinking instead of playing," said linebacker Lawrence McGrew. "This will help us rebuild our foundation."

Boston Vintage Sports Flashback

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